

**Opening Statement of Stuart Gordon Nash**  
**Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals**  
**June 23, 2026**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today to have you consider my qualifications for a position as an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I would like to thank President Donald J. Trump for nominating me, and the members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to the White House.

Before I begin, I would like to introduce those of my family who are here with me today: my wife, Mary, and my son, Christopher. My two other children, Will and Retta, would have been here today if they could, but one is working overseas, and the other just started a new job a couple of weeks ago, and I told her she'd better not ask for the day off.

There are a number of people I need to thank today, but, first and foremost, I would like to express my appreciation to my family, who have always been there to support me, and who have made so many sacrifices to allow me to spend much of my career in public service.

There are a number of people here who have been important role models and colleagues at different stages of my professional career, and while I will not take the time to acknowledge them individually, I would like to express my appreciation to them, not only for being here today, but for sharing their wisdom, their integrity, and their good counsel with me on so many different occasions over the years.

I am mindful of the great honor, and the great responsibility, that attaches to my nomination to this position. The D.C. Court of Appeals is the highest court in the D.C. court system, and its decisions shape the lives of the citizens of the District in ways that are often unseen and under-appreciated. The Court plays an important role in preserving our liberties, protecting against government overreach, and ensuring that all of us get to live in a safe and vibrant city, in which the laws are administered justly and without prejudice.

For nearly my entire professional career, I have litigated cases in the courts of the District of Columbia. For eight years, I was an Assistant United States Attorney here in D.C., prosecuting violent crime in all quadrants of our city. Twice I was detailed out of the U.S. Attorney's Office to handle other responsibilities – once, here to the Senate, to advise the Judiciary Committee on criminal policy; and later to the Office of the Attorney General of the United States, again, to provide advice on criminal policy. Following my service as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, I was appointed Associate Deputy Attorney General, with responsibility for leading DOJ's national and international efforts against narcotics trafficking and money-laundering cartels. From that position, I was appointed to the bench and, after being confirmed unanimously by this Committee, and the Senate as a whole, served for six years as an Associate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court, rotating through all three principal divisions of the Court: criminal, civil, and family. Despite my long stretch in public service, I have actually served as a defense attorney for longer than as a prosecutor, with stints at Williams & Connolly, at the beginning of my career, and Holland & Knight presently. As a consequence, I believe I would, if I were fortunate enough to be confirmed, bring both balance, and a wealth of different, relevant experiences to the benefit of the Court of Appeals.

I have had the privilege of serving our country, and this city, in many important roles. Nevertheless, if I am accorded the honor of serving on the Court of Appeals, and helping to contribute to the tapestry of the common law in D.C. that stretches back 250 years and beyond, it would be the greatest privilege of my life. Thank you for your consideration.